

tive penalties of the 9th of Geo. 4, and that they had become defaulters, and the master was justified in summarily dismissing them, and retaining the money termed "back pence." His judgment would therefore be for the defendant.

By this decision it seems to be established that men engaged in the brickmaking for the season, cannot recover for the "back pence," if discharged from any reasonable cause by their employers.

WILLESDEN CHURCH, MIDDLESEX.

THIS ancient edifice, situate in a rural suburb of London, long neglected, and almost ruinous, has by the exertions of the vicar and churchwardens, after many years of parish disputes and litigations, been substantially repaired, enlarged, and made appropriate for divine worship, and was on Sunday last, the 5th inst. re-opened by the Bishop of London. It is a church containing a nave, a deep chancel, and a south aisle. The tower is at the south-western corner. The structure is evidently of ancient date, the foundations and walls being built with chalk. The font is Norman; the nave, piers, and arches, Early English: the chancel appears to have been rebuilt during the 15th century, when late Perpendicular windows were inserted throughout the church, but which were subsequently replaced by wooden lights. The Perpendicular period has been adopted for the style of the restorations, but all the original features of the building, we understand, have been preserved.

The south aisle has been rebuilt, a picturesque oak porch added, the nave extended about 18 feet in length, windows and doorways of Bath stone inserted throughout, and the flooring, seats, chancel fittings, &c. renewed.

There are several good brasses, and the remains of a wall tomb were found and preserved in the south aisle.

The restorations have been executed from the designs and under the direction of Mr. Thomas Little, by Messrs. Furnivall, builders, of Whitechapel; and Thomas Julian was clerk of the works.

VENTILATION OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

IF pictures in their present position require to be washed every few years to get rid of the dust and soot, surely, sooner or later, they must become injured and the surface of the paint destroyed.

Can the present existing thoroughfare through the building be got rid of, which destroys the communication throughout? If otherwise it would be a waste of money to attempt any satisfactory alterations.

In regard to lighting galleries, it surely would not be required to expend thousands in experiments, when many of the artists of the present day have erected picture-galleries for themselves, and are therefore capable of expressing an opinion as to their merits or defects. I believe, with humble submission, there is not a more satisfactory gallery anywhere erected than the one at Dulwich: there the rooms are neither too wide nor too lofty to interfere with the light,—indeed, you appear to see every picture in a satisfactory manner, but ventilation is defective.

Now, in regard to ventilation, the observations of Mr. Faraday appear invaluable, for there arises, in my humble opinion, all the mischief, both as regards the present National Gallery, Royal Academy, &c. &c.

Pictures are seriously damaged by the ammonia deposited upon them by the perspirations, &c. of the immense multitudes. If you cannot limit the numbers of admission to galleries, then under any circumstance have ample ventilation from the upper part of the room. Let any person visit either of our public exhibitions and see the state of the atmosphere and the pictures, the former so bad as to be beyond endurance, and the latter covered with a film such as to render it difficult at times to see the pictures. This has been pointed out over and over again, but nothing done to remedy the evil, either in the National

Gallery or Royal Academy. The sweeping of the galleries alone is serious.

In conclusion, as I believe all argument in favour of retaining the present building as a national gallery is time thrown away, the next point to be considered in regard to the new building would be, the best and most simple mode of lighting, and above all, the ventilation of the building from the upper part of the room, keeping in mind the valuable observations of Mr. Faraday. I believe fire-places very essential.

The article following the National Gallery in your paper, by "J. E. D." (p. 749) is *à propos* to the subject. A. B.

IRISH BUILDING AND OTHER WORKS.

THE eight lunatic asylums authorised by Government to be erected in Ireland under the Board of Public Works, will, when completed, cost 300,000*l*.

A spacious building for the purpose of holding Protestant meetings is proposed to be erected at Belfast. Lord Dungannon is a principal contributor.

The Moore testimonial committee have now about 1,300*l*. available funds, and as a general meeting will be called shortly to consider the nature and site of the structure, it is to be hoped that the proceedings of this committee in the matter will leave no room for reproach by the profession.

An extensive military hospital is to be erected at Renmore, Galway, by her Majesty's Board of Ordnance, on the ground recently laid out for the erection of the new barracks. It will be used as a barrack until the buildings for that purpose are completed. The plans are in course of preparation by Captain Dill, R.E.

Upwards of 300 men are employed in drainage operations on Mr. Barton's property at Salt-hill, Galway.

It is proposed to connect Sligo and Enniskillen by a junction line. The Londonderry and Enniskillen Railway Company have applied for power to construct a line from Coleraine to Castledawson.

The county gaol at Philipstown has been altered and fitted for the reception of convicts.

The Fermoy workhouse is to be converted into a cavalry barracks (its original destination). A sum of 7,000*l*. is agreed on. A new workhouse for the accommodation of paupers must be built instead.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners state in their report that the funds have been provided for twenty-four cases of enlarging churches, sixty-nine of painting, and fifteen of enclosing and fencing. The sum of 7,139*l*. 10*s*. 10*d*. has been appropriated for rebuilding, also to the finishing of back contracts; and the total amount allotted to church works this year was 27,459*l*. 11*s*. 7*d*.

The church of Kilconriola, in the diocese of Connor, has been rebuilt at an expense of 4,159*l*.

The extensive gas-works at Cookstown have been opened. A new bank is building there.

The new lunatic asylum at Mullingar is progressing. Mr. John Smith, contractor.

The enlargement of St. Stephen's Church, Dublin, has cost 2,500*l*. mostly contributed by the Hon. Sidney Herbert. St. Thomas's Church will shortly be re-opened for divine worship, having undergone a series of repairs.

We hear that the Commissioners of National Education purpose erecting a large building in connection with the metropolitan schools, at an outlay of about 40,000*l*. We are not aware that this is officially announced.

Churches have been built at Loughmore, Killelogh, Ardara, and Templecorran.

The Royal Irish Beet Sugar Company are expected to commence their new factories in or about spring. That at Mountmellick has been remodelled, and operations are being renewed.

The church of St. Paul's, Portarlington, has been considerably enlarged, at an outlay of 1,700*l*.

Additional market accommodation is to be built at the Queen's-yard, Londonderry, according to plans by the town surveyor.

A church in the parish of Balrathbayne, county Meath, is in progress.

Sundry works in connection with the railway terminus at Kingstown are in progress, and we are informed that the company intend building a new range of offices off the departure platform, at the Dublin end, and facing Great Brunswick-street.

The first stone of the new belfry at Trinity College, Dublin, was to have been laid on Thursday, 1st inst. by his Grace the Lord Primate, Chancellor of the University. Mr. Lanyon, county surveyor of Belfast, furnished the designs.

The Dublin Exhibition building is daily developing its features. Nearly all the columns and metal girders of the southern aisle are fixed, together with a large quantity of the wooden framework. Two of the trellis girders of 100 feet span for nave have been hoisted to their destination. The galleries are in progress, and the site presents a busy scene.

Additions have been made to the Roman Catholic church of St. Francis Xavier, at Dublin, by which an increased amount of accommodation is obtained. Mr. Keane was the architect.

FOUNTAIN ON THE ESPLANADE AT NISMES.

ON the first of June in last year a fountain of considerable elegance was inaugurated at Nismes, and here we give a view of it.* In the centre of an octagon basin, on an eight-sided pedestal, and of which the base is flanked by four counter-forts, stands the personification of the city, crowned as with a diadem, with a temple which recalls the *Maison Carrée*. At the foot of the principal figure are seated four other figures, representing rivers. It has been objected that there is in these figures a want of repose, and that they do not accord with the idiom of the architecture. This is made more obvious by the contrast of the material of which they are composed, namely Carrara marble, with the body of the fountains, which is of stone. M. Questel was the architect: the design was selected in competition. The sculpture was entrusted to M. Pradier. The total cost was 8,800*l*. of which the five statues cost 4,000*l*. and the iron railing and lamps which surround it, 440*l*. The height of the basins from the ground is about 8 feet, and the diameter of the large basin in which the whole stands about 38 feet.

THE PRESERVATION OF STONE.

IT has often occurred to me that the Royal Institute of British Architects or the Society of Arts would do great service by offering rewards for the best mode of preserving stone-work in London from rapid decay. From some condition of the London atmosphere this decay seems to be of late greater in a short space of time than at any former period. The restoration of the transept of St. Saviour's Church, or the pinnacles on the south side of Westminster Abbey, are now no longer restorations. The Ionic screen at Hyde-park-corner, with its costly bas-reliefs, is mouldering; and many of the new churches in the most healthy parts of St. Pancras and St. Marylebone parishes exhibit this same cankerous disease on the surface of the stone-work.

It is of no use decrying cements and other materials as "shams" and imitations, while the real thing is so expensive and fragile; and it will become more serviceable to the public to encourage the correct and careful appliance of other materials than to condemn them,—unless stone can be more economically recommended as a lasting material.

J. M. B.

COINAGE.—The copper coinage of the new French empire has been contracted for by six manufacturers, one of whom is the head of a Birmingham house. The coins to be manufactured are of one, two, five, and ten centimes; and five thousand tons of copper will be required for the first issue of the metallic currency, nearly seven hundred tons of which will be used by the Birmingham firm: the work will probably take four years to complete.

* Engraved from M. Daly's excellent "Revue Générale de l'Architecture."